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As we are solidly practical, when the dainty souvenir of the Golden Wedding came to our office, we said, sotto voce, now this is but one item of all the costly lavish entertainment for the beautiful fete for family and friends. We mailed the envelope at once to an editor in Cambridge and it will finally be placed in the family cabinet of choice things.

A. M. P.

POETRY AND PUBLISHERS.

Poets who have paid good round sums to secure the publication of their books ,and who, after thus purchasing a publisher's imprint, have been sadly disappointed over the meagre sales, will read with appreciation a remarkable preface which Dr. S. Weir Mitchell has written for "The Comfort of the Hills," (The Century Company,) his new book of poems, in which

he outlines some of his experiences with poetry and with the old copyright law.

In the year 1882 I printed the first of six small volumes of verse. The editions of each were limited to 200 or 300 copies, with an average sale of about fifty copies. Having generously given away the rest, I am amused to find that these volumes are now sought for by the collector of first editions, and are occasionally bringing absurd prices.

This present collection is the only one I have not paid fo routright, and is a venture of my publishers which speaks well for their courage.

The three poems at the beginning of this volume lay for many years in my portfolios. "The Confort of the Hills" is now publicly printed for the first time. The two odes have appeared in the Century Magazine; "On a Lycian Tomb" was first printed in the selection of my poems published at my expense by Macmillan in London.

This volume had a still more brilliant success than its predecessors in America. In all eighteen copies sold in the first year, and, so far as I know, none since. Two years later I was asked to say what was to be done with the remaining volumes. Unfortunately, the English publishers had placed in them a statement that the book was copyrighted in America. This was true only as to a part of its contents, but it absolutely prevented the exportation to this country. Accordingly, I desired Mr. Macmillan to burn the rest of the volumes or to consign them afresh to the paper mill to serve for reincarnation of the poems in some more fortunate form. I asked also that fifty bound copies be sent to America. They were promptly stopped in the New York Custom House. A book said to be copyrighted in America the law forbids to enter. I asked what should be done with them. Might I buy them? I could not. I believe it was finally concluded to cremate them. This history of the freaks of

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the copyright and the adventures of a book may not be without interest.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF PAIN.

By John Wright Buckham.
With light, unheeding step I went
The way of the glad,
Nor ever dreamed one could be
spent,
Stricken and sad.

A shadow fell across my path, Pain bared her knife; Chok'd was my throat with dust, Death strove with life.

I looked to see if this my lot Were lone, or nay, And at my side the maimed and ill Throng'd all the way.

Bravely they met the chill and gloom, Patient and still;

Gently they made me room— Such was His will.

We spake not—they and I—for pain Sealed every lip,

But well we knew the gracious gain Of fellowship.

Lord, when the path of joy and song

I tread again,
Forbid that I, unheeding, pass and
wrong
Brothers in pain.